

Group Art Unit: 3761
Examiner: Stephens, J.

Atty. Ref.: P1549US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Takao Wada

Appl. No. : 10/577,822

Filed : April 28, 2006

For : DISPOSABLE WEARING ARTICLE AND METHOD OF
MANUFACTURING THE SAME

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

ELECTION AND AMENDMENT

Sir:

This communication is submitted in response to the office action of May 30,
2008. Please amend the application as follows:

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (previously presented) A disposable wearing article comprising:
a back region having extensibility in a waist direction and provided with stopper members at both ends in the waist direction;
an abdominal region provided with flap portions at both ends in the waist direction; and
an absorber that bridges between the back region and the abdominal region,
wherein a length of the back region in the waist direction when the back region is stretched is longer than a length of the abdominal region in the waist direction, and the length of the back region in the waist direction when no force is applied from an outside is almost equal to the length of the abdominal region in the waist direction or shorter than the length in the waist direction.

Claims 2 and 3 (canceled).

4. (new) The disposable wearing article according to claim 1, wherein the back region includes a web for outer surface, a web for inner surface, and an elastic member provided between the web for outer surface and the web for inner surface, the elastic member is extendable in the waist direction.

5. (new) The disposable wearing article according to claim 1, wherein a trimmed portion is provided on an inner edge of each of the both ends of the back region, and on an inner edge of the flap portions.

6. (new) The disposable wearing article according to claim 1, wherein a slanting portion is provided on an inner edge of each of the both ends of the back region, and on an inner edge of each of the flap portions.

7. (new) The disposable wearing article according to claim 1, wherein the stopper members are temporarily held on the abdominal region to form the disposable wearing article into an underpants-shape, and the back region and the abdominal region are joined at an inside from the stopper member.

8. (new) The disposable wearing article according to claim 1, wherein the stopper members are temporarily held on the abdominal region to form the disposable wearing article into an underpants-shape, and the back region and the abdominal region are joined at an outside from the stopper member.

9. (new) The disposable wearing article according to claim 1, wherein a length of each of the flap portions is 50 to 60mm.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

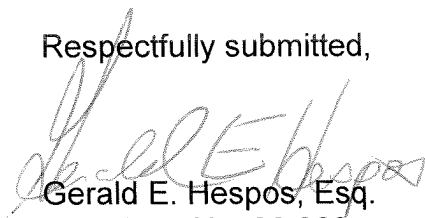
Claims 1 and 4-9 remain in the application. Claims 2 and 3 are canceled without prejudice. New claims 4-9 have been added and all depend directly from claim 1.

The office action of May 30, 2008 required the applicant to elect either claim 1, which is drawn to a disposable wearing article or claims 2 and 3 which are drawn to a method of manufacturing a disposable absorbent article.

The applicant hereby elects claim 1. Non-elected claims 2 and 3 are canceled without prejudice. The applicant is considering a divisional application directed to the non-elected claims. New claims 4-9 depend from claim 1 and are consistent with the election made herein.

The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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